



Inotrope Bag Change; Performing Inotrope Infusions

Four Steps for Performing Infusions:

- 1- PRACTICE GOOD HAND-WASHING 2- PREPARE SUPPLIES 3- DISCONNECT OLD BAG 4- CONNECT & START NEW BAG

- MONITOR for any new shortness of breath or swelling and report to your nurse.
- FLUID RESTRICTIONS- Includes any liquid at room temperature.

Medication(s) to infuse: _____

Home Infusion Nurse (name, #): _____

Home Infusion Pharmacist (name, #): _____

Make a habit to:

- Find a CLEAN WORKSPACE to perform infusions and store supplies.
- WASH YOUR HANDS for at LEAST 20 seconds.
- Soap and water are best. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Hum the Happy Birthday song twice.
- CHECK YOUR MEDICATION to confirm:
- Your name and date of birth AND the dose, expiration date and medication name.
- DO NOT FLUSH THE LUMEN or end INFUSING – the lumen infusing should not be flushed.
- DO NOT DISCONNECT FROM YOUR INFUSION without contacting your care team.
- WEIGH YOURSELF DAILY AND RECORD.
- Track weight gain and loss. Report to your nurse or ordering provider.

Practice good hand-washing

Always wash hands when instructed

Soap and water preferred

Hand sanitizer (optional)

Wash for a full 20 seconds or rub until dry

STEP 1: PRACTICE GOOD HAND-WASHING

- Always remember to **WASH YOUR HANDS** for a full 20 seconds.
 - Soap and water is always preferred (hand sanitizer optional).
 - Make it a habit to wet your hands, apply soap, and lather for 20 seconds (hum the Happy Birthday song twice).
 - If using hand sanitizer, rub a dime-sized amount between your hands until dry. Never wave or blow on your hands to speed up drying.
 - Remember, if you are using gloves, you must still wash your hands.
 - Washing your hands helps reduce your chance of infection.



STEP 2: PREPARE SUPPLIES

Note the time your infusion began to know when to change the bag: _____ AM PM

Remember to change the bag every day or as instructed by your nurse or pharmacist.

Note how long your medication should be left at room temperature: _____

Remove your medication from the fridge if refrigerated.

- Compare your medication with your orders to check the following before the infusion:
- Medication has my name and date of birth.
 - Medication name is correct.
 - Medication dose is correct.
 - Medication is not expired.
 - If any of this information is incorrect, stop and call your home infusion pharmacist immediately

Locate a clean dry work space. Clean your workspace and SAS or SASH mat (if provided) with cleaning solution.

Find a dry, hard work surface to set up your medication and supplies

- WASH YOUR HANDS.**
- Soap and water are best. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - Wash for 20 seconds (hum the Happy Birthday song twice) or rub with hand sanitizer until your hands are dry.

- Gather the following supplies and place on your workspace. Do not put this on top of your SAS or SASH mat yet.
- 4–5 alcohol pads (to clean your supplies and hub or IV line tip)
 - 1 new bag of medication with tubing attached
 - 1 saline syringe depending on your flush orders
 - 1 heparin syringe if you have been ordered this (most will not need this)
 - 1 Trash bag

- WASH YOUR HANDS.**
- Soap and water are best. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - Wash for 20 seconds (hum the Happy Birthday song twice) or rub with hand sanitizer until your hands are dry.

- Arrange your alcohol pads, wrapped syringes and medication bag with attached tubing above your SAS or SASH mat in their respective location.
- “S” = Saline
 - “A” = Administer (includes your medication bag and attached tubing)
 - “S” = Saline
 - “H” = Heparin if you are prescribed this

STEP 2: PREPARE SUPPLIES (CONTINUED)

Unwrap the saline syringe, and the heparin syringe if your doctor has told you to use this.

WASH YOUR HANDS.

- Soap and water are preferred, hand sanitizer optional if soap and water are not available.
- Soap and water are best. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Open the new bag of medication and remove the paper tape from the tubing. Place the medication aside.

Disconnect the old bag

Remove old medicine

Disconnect medicine

Remove cassette

Throw away cassette

Connect & start new bag

STEP 3: DISCONNECT THE OLD BAG

Remove the pump and old bag of medication from the pouch and place these on the work surface.

Stop the pump and turn the pump off based on your nurse's or pharmacist's instructions.

Next, disconnect your medication tubing (attached to your medication bag) from your IV line. Grasp the end cap (hub) of your IV line with one hand while using your other hand to unscrew the medication tubing. Do not remove the hub or end cap from your IV line.

Make sure the clamp is closed on the tubing.

Follow your nurse's or pharmacist's instructions to remove the cassette from the pump.

Throw away the used cassette and bag in the sharps container or trash bag.

WASH YOUR HANDS.

- Soap and water are best. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Wash for 20 seconds (hum the Happy Birthday song twice) or rub with hand sanitizer until your hands are dry.

Connect & start new bag

Replace old batteries

Load pump

Wash hands

Scrub hub

Connect tubing

Start infusion

Wash Hands

STEP 4: CONNECT & START NEW BAG

Replace the old batteries with new batteries in the pump.

Connect your medication tubing to the hub of your IV line by doing the following:

Hold the hub in one hand. Find the end of the medication tubing. Remove the medication tubing cap.

- Connect the medication tubing to the hub of your IV line. Use the same "push and twist" motion as before.

Check your settings on the pump and start the infusion.

- When the pump starts infusing, place pump back in your carrier pouch.

STEP 4: CONNECT & START NEW BAG

If your IV has only one side (lumen), you are done! Go on with your day.

If your IV has two sides (lumens), you need to flush the other side.

WASH YOUR HANDS.

- Soap and water are best. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Wash for 20 seconds (hum the Happy Birthday song twice) or rub with hand sanitizer until your hands are dry.

First, remove any air bubbles from the syringe.

Remove the protective cap from the syringe and place the cap flat-side down on your SAS or SASH mat.

Hold the syringe with the end up and plunger at the bottom.

Pull back on the syringe plunger slightly to break the seal. You will be able to see the air bubble in the syringe.

Slowly push the plunger up to let the air bubble out. Keep holding the syringe.

‘Scrub the hub’ of the UNUSED side of your IV line with a NEW alcohol pad for at least 15 seconds.

- Use the second alcohol pad above your SAS or SASH mat (the one before the “A”).
- Once you have cleaned the hub, hold the hub with two fingers. Keep the hub from touching anything else.
- If your hub touches anything, wash your hands and scrub the hub again with a new alcohol pad.

Use pulse flush to flush your UNUSED lumen with saline or Heparin depending on your nurse’s instructions.

Disconnect the syringe and throw it in the trash when done.

- Hold the hub in one hand and the saline syringe in the other.
- Screw the syringe onto the hub using a “push and twist” motion. It’s like putting a key into an ignition.
- Once the syringe is connected to the hub, open the clamp on your IV line and slowly push 1 to 2 mL of saline at a time. Stop and push 1 to 2 mL more. Repeat this “pulse flush” until the saline syringe is empty. Flushing this way each time helps keep your IV line from getting clogged.
- If you have trouble flushing your IV line, make sure the clamp on your IV line is open. If your clamp is open and you are still having trouble, stop and do not force it. Call your home infusion nurse.

WASH YOUR HANDS.

Disclosure: This project was funded under grant number R01HS027819 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The authors are solely responsible for this document’s contents, findings, and conclusions, which do not necessarily represent the views of AHRQ. Readers should not interpret any statement in this report as an official position of AHRQ or of HHS. None of the authors has any affiliation or financial involvement that conflicts with the material presented in this report.